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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE Laſt Parliament.

see Macaulay, as to this, & the important proceedings [illegible] with.

The Second Edition.

[By Sir Richard Blackmore]

LONDON:

Printed for *Jacob Tonſon*, at *Grays-Inn-Gate*, in *Grays-Inn-Lane*, 1699.

Leabharlann Bayeuse

23 NOV 1984

THE

Introduction.

THE *Honourable Concluſion of the late War with* France, *to the great Mortification of his Majeſty's Enemys, the Satisfaction of his Friends, and the Admiration of all Men, muſt thankfully be acknowledg'd as chiefly owing to His Majeſty's great Wiſdom, invincible Courage, and inflexible Reſolution. By his Courage he rekindled the decaying Fire of this Warlike People, taught them by his Conduct, and provoked them by his Example to equal the Atchievements of their Valiant Forefathers, and thereby reſtor'd to* England *the ancient Reputation of her Arms. But by his Wiſdom he procured us an Honour we never could before pretend to; he made* England *a Match for* France, *as well in the Cabinet, as in the Camp; and gain'd by a Wiſe Treaty more, than by Arms had been won in*

the Field. For any Potentate to unite many States and Princes diſagreeing in Intereſts, Inclinations or Religion, in a ſtrict Confederacy againſt a Common Enemy, and to preſerve that Alliance unbroken for many years together, notwithſtanding the great Loſſes thoſe Allies ſuſtained, and in deſpight of all the Attempts of Foreign and Domeſtic Enemys to diſſolve their Union, muſt be acknowledg'd by all the World, as the effect of a refin'd and maſterly Judgment: Yet this Honour, which perhaps has no Example, is by the Confeſſion of all, due to His Majeſty, who was the only Center in which ſo many various Lines could meet, the only Head which ſuch differing Intereſts could confide in, as capable to direct them in a Juncture of Time, when the Libertys of all Europe *lay at Stake.*

We are likewiſe greatly indebted to the Bravery and Fidelity of His Majeſtys Fleet and Army for our preſent Peace, and the Bleſſings that attend it. It muſt be own'd to their great Honour, that our Officers and Common Men, as well by Land as by Sea, notwithſtanding any Diſappointments they at any time met with, did on all occaſions ſhow a Courage and Reſolution equal to that of their Warlike Anceſtors; a Courage that became the Subjects of ſuch a Prince, and ſuch a General; a Courage worthy of the Noble Cauſe in which they were engaged; the Preſervation

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of their Religion, Laws and Libertys. And therefore no Praiſes can be too high, nor can any Rewards conſiſtent with the Publick Good for which they fought, be looked on as too great for Men who have merited ſo much of their Country.

And yet it muſt be confeſſed that ſo great a Prince and ſo great a General at the Head of ſuch Brave and Loyal Men, could never have been able to have brought a War with ſuch a Potent Adverſary to a happy Iſſue, had not the Parliament of England *concurr'd with him, and ſtood by him with ſo much Conſtancy and unanimous Affection. 'Tis therefore to theſe worthy Patriots that we owe, in a great meaſure, our preſent Security, and the Eſtabliſhment of our Laws and Religion. The People of* England *ought to have a due Reverence and Affection for their Repreſentatives in Parliament, and to maintain their Honour, even when in diſtempered Times it ſhould happen, that they acted ſome things againſt the Publick Good, not only becauſe they are a Part of our Conſtitution, but likewiſe that particular Part which the People have entruſted to look after and manage their Intereſts; for ſhould the People deſert their Repreſentatives, they would be* Felo de ſe, *and one day run a hazzard of loſing that part of their Conſtitution.*

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And if it be the Duty and Intereſt of the People, not to deſpiſe, or run down indifferent, or bad Parliaments for the reaſons mentioned, what Applauſes, what Expreſſions of Affection and Gratitude are due to Good ones? And indeed if any of our Parliaments ever rightly underſtood, and zealouſly purſued the true Intereſt of their Country, thoſe that have been Called, and Sate ſince the happy Revolution, muſt be allowed with the greateſt Juſtice to have merited that Character. If to have ſtedfaſtly adher'd to the Intereſt of Europe *againſt a Common Enemy: If to have chearfully ſupplied His Majeſty with the Sinews of War, to enable him to carry it on with Vigour; and by ſuch Ways and Means as were leaſt Burdenſom and uneaſy to the People; If to have diſcerned and prevented the greateſt Dangers that could threaten a Nation; To have conquered Difficulties of State of the higheſt Nature, and to have preſerved ſo many years, thro' an obſtinate Zeal for the good of their Country; to Support His Majeſty till his Arms had procured an Honourable Peace, and thereby Eſtabliſhed our Government, our Religion and our Property; If This be to have deſerved well of the* Engliſh *Nation, the Parliaments I have been ſpeaking of, have at leaſt equal'd the Glory of their greateſt Anceſtors.*

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Their Love to their Country, and Capacity for Publick Buſineſs, have appear'd in a very eminent manner: 'Tis eaſy and pleaſant to Sail in good Weather before the Wind; But to Steer true and ſteddy in a Storm, to beat it againſt the Wind midſt Rocks and Shelves on either hand, and to make the Port at laſt in Safety, this muſt be allow'd to be a Maſter's work. Theſe Parliaments therefore, and particularly thoſe among them who had the chief Direction of Affairs, having like Wiſe and Careful Patriots, done ſo much in their hard Station toward bringing Matters to this ſucceſsful iſſue, muſt deſerve all the grateful Returns that can be from their Country.

Their Honour is the more particular, inaſmuch as Men of great Capacity for Buſineſs of State, are ſo very rare: For it may be truly ſaid, that a Thouſand Men are Born in this Kingdom fit for Arms, to one, that has ſolidity of Judgment, quickneſs of Apprehenſion, compaſs of Thought, and clearneſs of Sight, proper for the management of Publick Affairs.

What has been ſaid of the ſeveral Parliaments aſſembled ſince his Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Throne is more eminently true of the laſt; which purſued the Deſigns of the former with the greateſt Skill, as well

well as the warmeſt Zeal. This Auguſt Aſſembly had the hardeſt Task imaginable upon their hands, and to give an impartial and ſuccinct Relation of their principal Proceedings, of the Wiſe Meaſures they took to remove the Evils we felt, and to prevent greater which we fear'd; and to find ſufficient Supplys for the carrying on the War, till at laſt they had the ſatisfaction to ſee it iſſue in an Honourable Peace, is the deſign of the following Papers.

When

A Short Hiſtory of the laſt Parliament.

WHEN this Parliament firſt came together, they found themſelves engag'd in variety of Buſineſs of great Nicety, and moſt important Conſequence.

To maintain our new Settlement after the late happy Revolution, we had a War upon our hands with a mighty Prince; who by his Naval Strength, as well as by the Number and Diſcipline of his Land Forces, by the Wiſdom of his Counſels, and his conſtant Succeſſes, was grown the Terror of all *Europe*. This Potent Monarch protected the Perſon, and eſpous'd the Quarrel of the late Abdicated King; and looking on his Honour and Intereſt alike concern'd, us'd his utmoſt Efforts by Arms to reenthrone him. And notwithſtanding *England* had hitherto with great Reſolution and Alacrity born the weight of this heavy War to preſerve all thoſe Advantages; that is, whatever is dear to an *Engliſh* Freeman and a Proteſtant, which were procur'd by their late Deliverance, yet ſome of the wiſeſt and cleareſt-ſighted among thoſe who were hearty Friends of the Government, grew diffident of the Event. They queſtion'd our Ability to ſupport our ſelves under ſo Burdenſom and Expenſive a War, while the Enemies of our Settlement were inſolently

ſure of over-turning it. 'Tis true indeed, we had at the head of the Government, One, from whom we might expect all Things that with Reaſon could be hoped for, from the Courage and Conduct of a Wiſe Prince, and an Accompliſh'd General; One, who to Protect a Nation which with ſo much Glory he had before delivered, freely and frequently expos'd his Life, as if it had been the Life of a Common Man, to all the Dangers of the Sea, and all the Hazards of Battel by Land; and who the Year before by his Reduction of the important Fortreſs of *Namur*, in the ſight of almoſt all the Power of *France*, had ſtruck a Damp upon our Enemies abroad, and rebuk'd the Confidence of the Malecontents at home. But notwithſtanding the Nation might with the fulleſt Aſſurance rely upon His Majeſty for every Thing that could be ask'd, or expected from the greateſt Prince, and moſt watchful Father of his Country; yet the People could not be without their Fears, leſt he ſhould one day Fall by the hands of *Saul*, and the Kingdom be cruſh'd by the diſproportion'd Power of our Enemies. They doubted whether the Nation, tho' ever ſo willing, would be able to grant to His Majeſty the neceſſary Supplys for carrying on ſo neceſſary a War.

But beſides what we had to apprehend from ſo formidable a Foe abroad, we had a great deal to fear from our treacherous Enemies at home. For tho'

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the Body of the Nation was infinitely pleaſed with the late Revolution, and thankfully acknowledg'd the unvaluable Benefits that attended it, yet a conſiderable number were impatient of their Deliverance, and raved at the reſtitution of our Libertys and Religion. Our Warlike *David* found his moſt dangerous Enemys were at home, if not of his own Houſhold. The whole Body of the Papiſts were his Enemys, and the Reaſons of their Enmity are too obvious to mention. Beſides theſe, a great number of moderate Proteſtants, and ſuch as were the Creatures and Dependants of the late Government, and had embarked in, or wiſhed well to the glorious deſign of enſlaving and ruining their Native Country, Men of Arbitrary and Tyrannical Principles, fixt and ſetled in their hatred to the Conſtitution of our Government, and the Libertys of the *Engliſh* Nation, theſe, and many others that did not find their Account and particular Intereſt in the preſent Settlement, became its Enemys; and by open or clandeſtine ways, endeavour'd to ſtreighten or ſubvert it. Theſe Men were very Zealous to deliver us from our Laws and Libertys, and to reſtore us to the Privileges of our *Egyptian* Burdens. The ungrateful Murmurers ſpoke of Stoning the *Moſes* that reſcued them; and unable to bear their happy Deliverance, with Threats and Violence demanded their heavy Tasks, and their old Oppreſſors.

These Men, according to their different Posts and Tempers, in different ways, assisted the Foreign Enemy.

All Arts and Methods tho' ever so base and unworthy, which Wit quickned with malice could invent, were employed to weaken the Reputation of the Government. Sometimes they flew openly upon it with bitter Invectives, sometimes they secretly stabbd it with malicious Suggestions and sly Insinuations. They traduced all that were in Publick Employ, and exposed them to Contempt; they worried their Names with base and groundless Calumnys, attributing many of our misfortunes not to be foreseen, and therefore not to be prevented, to the Treachery or Negligence of our most faithful and vigilant Ministers. And tis no wonder these fierce creatures fastened so greedily on the Characters of our greatest Ministers, when His Majesty himself, who had merited as much as any Prince ever did of his People, could not escape their disloyal Reflections.

They were very fond of propagating any ill Tydings, or false Reports, that might any way lessen the Credit of our Administration, increase the Fears of the People, and cool their Affection to the Government; what unnatural and salvage Joy did they express when they heard of any Losses that befell the Nation, which they cruelly aggravated,

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and with no leſs Zeal they diminiſhed and ſlighted the Advantages we at any time obtain'd: They could by no means diſſemble the ſecret Pleaſures they felt, when they had any freſh hopes of ſeeing their Country ſpeedily undone.

England, as before mention'd, being engaged in a War with *France* for the Preſervation of the late happy Settlement, great Supplys were abſolutely neceſſary to enable His Majeſty to ſuſtain the Force of a Kingdom, which by their own Wiſe Adminiſtration, and the Supineneſs of *England* in the late inglorious Reigns, was grown ſo Potent, that now it required a longer Sword to Reſiſt, than heretofore to Conquer it. And for this reaſon, without the leaſt Flattery, His Majeſty has acquired more Honour by Controuling the Power of *France*, than any of his great Predeceſſors did by ſubduing it. The Parliaments therefore reſolving to carry on the War with Vigour, were obliged to lay great Taxes on the People, tho' not greater than the neceſſity of Affairs required; and the War continuing ſo long, they could not be inſenſible of the Burden. Of this the Malecontents took the Advantage, and repreſented in all Companys, that the Government muſt of neceſſity ſink under its own Weight, and that our heavy Taxes, by reducing us to extream Poverty, would inevitably prove our Deſtruction. They never ceas'd declaiming on this

this popular Subject, and galling the People in this tender Part; hoping to make them weary of a Government which was repreſented ſo Burdenſome; and at laſt, perſwade them rather to let in the Deluge, than to be at the Expence of maintaining their Banks.

Beſides theſe Adherents to the late King's Intereſt, there were others, who tho' great Aſſerters of the late Revolution, and averſe enough to a ſecond; yet, from I know not what private diſguſts, perſonal Quarrels and Diſappointments, grew ſowr and uneaſy; and to expreſs their Reſentments in all Converſation, endeavoured to bring our Adminiſtration into Contempt; they were for breaking the Confederacy, and againſt raiſing ſuch large Sums of Mony for carrying on the War; they were for diſtreſſing and ſtreightning the Government, but not for overturning it. They were willing it ſhould continue; but they were for Clogging its Wheels, that it might move heavily; in ſhort, they were againſt all things that the known Enemys of the Government were againſt; and for all things which they were for, unleſs the overthrowing of the preſent Settlement, and the Reſtoration of the late King; That is, they were for all the means that would certainly bring about the End, but not for the End it ſelf. However, under this plauſible pretence of declaring againſt great Taxes, and by

other

other popular Oppoſitions, they thought to recommend themſelves to their Country, as great Patriots; tho' at the ſame time, the greateſt Enemys of the Government had in this reſpect, as good a Title to the favour of the People; whom they would gladly have deliver'd from their Taxes, and thereby have eas'd them of the means of their Preſervation.

The Proceedings of theſe Men were of all others the moſt abſurd and unaccountable; and the oppoſition they made; ſeem'd to be the effect of ſome ſtrange Infatuation. The beſt Apology that can be made for them is, that they were guided by a falſe Notion of Popularity; and ſuppos'd that the Character of a Patriot was without diſtinction of Times or Perſons, to be ever againſt the Court, and in all Caſes whatſoever. Notwithſtanding theſe Men could not but be ſenſible, that the preſervation of their Religion, Laws and Libertys, was inſeparably interwoven with that of the Government; that the Face of Affairs was ſo far alter'd by the late happy Revolution, that the Intereſt of their Country was plainly the ſame with that of the Court; which appear'd, as well by the oppoſition that was made to it by all thoſe whom theſe Men themſelves eve; look'd upon as the greateſt Promoters of Popery and Arbitrary Power; as by the Principles of Liberty by which the Government

was brought about, and on which it muſt always ſtand; notwithſtanding this was a Government of their own ſeeking, and than which they could never expect any other more favourable to them, either in their Civil or Religious Intereſts; notwithſtanding all this, ſuch a ſatisfaction it was to thwart a Court, ſuch a pleaſure to expreſs a private Reſentment, and by the ſame act to be thought Popular, that theſe Men to the admiration of all, and with the ſecret Deriſion of their new Friends endeavour'd what they could to make the Government uneaſy.

Moreover, at this time another Difficulty lay heavy upon the Nation: Our Current Coin had many years before began to be Clip'd, a miſchief which of late had been ſecretly carry'd on, and promoted by the Enemys of the Government, and the dangerous Conſequences of it not being heeded or wilfully neglected, and therefore no remedy being apply'd, our Mony was now become ſo far diminiſh'd and debas'd, that the Nation ſuffer'd unſpeakably by it, both in carrying on the War, as well as our Commerce. The cure of this Evil could no longer be delay'd, without apparent and inevitable Ruin. The Adherents to the late King, and the diſaffected to This, obſerv'd it with unconceivable Joy. They were very confident the Government muſt unavoidably ſplit on this Rock, and that this

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ſingle miſchief was enough to ſink it. And tho the Friends of the Government and their Country (I call them ſo, becauſe the Intereſt of both are now ſo inſeparably united, that 'tis impoſſible to be one without being the other) were fully convinc'd that this Grievance ought to be redreſs'd; yet how to effect it in ſuch a Conjuncture, without bringing the Nation into the utmoſt Confuſion, was enough to puzzle Men of the deepeſt Reach, and greateſt Capacity.

Our Enemys abroad, after the glorious Succeſs of His Majeſty's Arms the laſt Campaign in *Flanders*, grew very diffident of the Iſſue of the War. After this blow which wounded them in ſo ſenſible and tender a part, they expreſs'd by their Behaviour and Language, how much their hopes of ſubduing us by Force were abated; they could not but foreſee, that if His Majeſty could appear in the Field the next Summer in the ſame Circumſtances as he did the laſt, it would be very hard, if not impoſſible, for them to oppoſe his Arms. To prevent this, they had two things to wiſh and promote; one was to Embroil our Affairs by creating Mutinys at home, the other to ruin our Credit, and thereby diſable us from carrying on the War abroad. The firſt they hoped would be effected by the ill State of our Coin; for to neglect that Diſeaſe, or to attempt its Cure, they judg'd would alike produce ſuch in-

teſtine Diſorders as would prove our Deſtruction: And as to our Credit they judg'd, that if by any means That of the Bank of *England* could be deſtroy'd, which was then the great Support of the Nation, and was by Experience found to be ſo the following Summer, when it contributed ſo much to the Support of our Army, at a time when the Bank it ſelf labour'd under the greateſt Streights, it would be impoſſible for us to maintain our Army abroad; and for this reaſon they engag'd their Friends in *England* to employ themſelves with the utmoſt Diligence, to aggravate the Inconveniencys of not recoining our Mony if that ſhould be neglected, or to Embarraſs and Entangle as much as they were able, the methods of recoining it, in caſe that ſhould be agreed on, and thereby make it grievous and inſupportable; and in caſe any Miracle ſhould happen, that this great Buſineſs ſhould be accompliſh'd without the Confuſion that was expected to follow, they were inſtructed to leave no Stone unturn'd, whereby they might hope to deſtroy the Publick Credit, and particularly that Branch of it that remain'd moſt entire, the Bank of *England*. If either of theſe Deſigns, and much more if both ſucceeded, they were well ſatisfi'd it would be impoſſible for the King to appear in *Flanders* the next Spring in that Formidable manner he did the year before. In this poſture our Affairs ſtood, and indeed

deed this Buſineſs of the Coin was ſuch a complicated, and almoſt inextricable a miſchief, that notwithſtanding this Parliament, as will appear in the ſequel of this Hiſtory, appear'd a moſt Wiſe Aſſembly, and did Wonders for the Preſervation of the Government, and their Country; yet it may be perhaps allow'd, that ſome unfitting and unwary Steps were made, when they firſt enter'd upon ſo delicate and intricate an Affair; and indeed the Novelty as well as the Nicety of it was ſuch, that it was their Honour they made no more, if indeed they made any. It is not certain, that if according to ſome Reſolutions, the Silver Money had been all call'd in at once, and then paid out as faſt as recoin'd, according to the reſpective Appropriation, we ſhould not have run into the greateſt Confuſions; for 'tis not eaſy to tell how the ſmaller Neceſſities of Life and Commerce among the People could have been maintain'd, had the Money been call'd in all at once, or how the New Money ſhould have freely Circulated, had it been all paid out as appropriated; for it ſeems that the Monied Uſurers, and the Goldſmiths, muſt of neceſſity have receiv'd the far greateſt part, who were not likely to part with it without great Advantage: And if theſe had been the Conſequences, 'tis plain the Nation could by no means have ſubſiſted; and as ſome Men apprehended, that had the Parliament proceeded in theſe Steps,

this Confuſion would have follow'd; ſo they were afraid, that if the Second Bank that was intended to be ſet up, had been Eſtabliſh'd, it would have prov'd ſo great a diminution of the Credit of the former, that it had been impoſſible to have ſupported our Army in *Flanders*; and if that had been the Conſequence, we muſt have been contented with what Terms of Peace our Enemies would have been pleas'd to give us.

Whether theſe Reſolutions would have produc'd theſe Effects which many apprehended, is not certain, they being never put into Execution; but this is certain, that if theſe Meaſures were wrong, the Parliament ſoon after recover'd themſelves, to their great Honour; for even then when they found themſelves perplex'd, and almoſt oppreſt with their hard Affairs, yet ſuch was their Zeal for the Service of their Country, ſuch their Courage and Reſolution, that they broke thro' all their amazing Difficulties, and made the way to a proſp'rous Concluſion.

Beſides, at this time tho' 'tis plain by the Event, that the Nation had Treaſure enough to ſupport the War, yet the ways of coming at it were grown very difficult. The former Parliaments choſe rather to Eſtabliſh Funds for Publick Supplys, than to uſe any Methods of raiſing them within the Year; divers Branches of the King's Revenue were by His Majeſty's own conſent, ſubjected to great Anticipations,

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and the moſt eaſy and obvious Funds were already ſetled, and ſufficiently loaded; ſo that by the continuance of the War, it became much harder for this, than for the preceding Parliaments, to find out ways to defray the Charge of it.

This was the poſture of Affairs when this memorable Parliament firſt ſate down. Theſe were the complicated Diſeaſes under which the Nation labour'd, when theſe Phyſitians of State met together to Conſult about proper Remedys. Now to judge right in ſuch nice and perplex'd Caſes, and to extricate a Kingdom from ſuch various and preſſing Difficultys, is a Task worthy of Wiſe and Great Men; and when 'tis duly conſider'd what Condition this Parliament found the Nation in, what hard work lay before them, and how they ſurmounted the frightful difficultys they had to contend with, whereby they defeated the hopes and expectations of their Enemys, and ſetled the Nation in Peace and Tranquility, it can't but raiſe in us a mighty eſteem of their Love to their Country, as well as their Courage and great Capacity.

His Majeſty having finiſh'd the Campaign in *Flanders* Ninety Five, no leſs to his own Honour than the general Satisfaction of his People, arriv'd in *England* the Fourteenth of *November*, where he was receiv'd with as loud Applauſes, and as great demonſtration of publick Joy and Affection, as have been

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expreſs'd on any occaſion. He met the Parliament on the two and twentieth day of *November* following; and at the opening of the Seſſions, both Houſes with great Zeal and Unanimity, in a very Loyal Addreſs to His Majeſty, Congratulated the Succeſs of his Arms in *Flanders*, and his ſafe Return to his People: In which they likewiſe aſſur'd him of their ſtedfaſt Reſolution to ſupport His Majeſty and his Government, againſt all his Enemys at home and abroad; and effectually to Aſſiſt him in the Proſecution of the preſent War.

The great Thing this Parliament had to do, and which they undertook with great Alacrity, was to find out Ways to diſcharge the Expence of the War, and to carry it on with Vigour, till they could bring it to a ſafe and honourable Concluſion; this they were reſolv'd to do with the utmoſt Care and Application. But at the ſame time, to ſhew their Zeal for the Eaſe of the People who choſe them, and the Security of their Lives and Eſtates, before they ſo much as enter'd upon any Publick Buſineſs, a Bill was brought into the Houſe, and read the firſt time, for regulating Trials in Caſe of Treaſon and Miſpriſion of Treaſon; where many Things which the People complain'd of as grievous, were remov'd or mitigated. This Bill in a ſhort time paſt both Houſes, and was one of the firſt that receiv'd the Royal Aſſent this Seſſion: By which gracious Condeſcenſion

deſcenſion His Majeſty was pleas'd to let his People ſee, that he was as ready to contribute every thing in his Power, for the Eaſe and Safety of his Subjects, as they were every thing in theirs, for the Support of His Majeſty and his Government. About the Second of *December*, the Houſe of Commons Voted a Supply for carrying on the War, and proceeded to proportion it according to the Eſtimates relating to the Navy, Army, and our Allies. They endeavour'd all that was poſſible to raiſe the Supplys they had Voted, by ſuch Ways and Means as might keep the People from being querulous and uneaſie. And notwithſtanding the Lands of *England* had all along born ſo great a ſhare of the Publick Charge, and that now there might be a greater Pretence than in former Parliaments, to eaſe the Landlord; yet the Houſe reſolv'd not to ſpare Themſelves, but Tax'd Land Four Shillings in the Pound. They were contented to ſhare the Expence of the War, and choſe rather to burden themſelves than their Tenants, acting in this like Wiſe Generals, who to encourage their Troops, and engage their Affection, put them upon no other Hardſhips than what themſelves are moſt forward to undergo.

About this time the Parliament enter'd upon the great Affair of the Coin; and whether it was neceſſary or expedient to recoin the Silver Mony, was the firſt Queſtion. The Arguments were indeed

weighty

weighty on either ſide. The Reaſons againſt calling in and recoining our Mony were, That this was no fit Conjuncture for it. That the Nation was engag'd in a burdenſome and doubtful War, by which the Kingdom had already greatly ſuffer'd, and of which it grew every day more ſenſible. That therefore the People on whoſe good Affection the Government ſo much depended, ſhould not be provok'd by freſh ſuperadded Grievances, greater than any they had yet felt, as thoſe would certainly be, that muſt ariſe from calling in our Coin. That if this was done, however things might be manag'd and accommodated at home, it was impoſſible to maintain either our Foreign Commerce, or our Foreign War; for neither the Merchant could be paid his Bills of Exchange, nor the Soldier receive his Subſiſtence. That this therefore was to lay the Axe to the Root, and to dig up the Foundations of the Government. That if this deſign was proſecuted, Trade muſt ſtand ſtill for want of mutual Payments, whence ſuch great Diſorders and Confuſion would certainly follow, as would diſcourage and diſhearten the People in the higheſt meaſure, if not drive them to a perfect Deſpair. That therefore the recoining our Mony at this time, was by no means to be attempted without hazarding all.

'Twas alledg'd by thoſe of the contrary Opinion, that the Miſchief would be fatal, if a preſent Remedy

medy was not found out and apply'd. That by reaſon of the ill State of our Coin, the Change abroad was infinitely to our prejudice. That the Supplys that were rais'd to maintain our Army would never attain their End, being ſo much diminiſh'd and devour'd by the unequal Change and exorbitant Premiums before they reach'd the Camp. That this was the unhappy Cauſe that our Guineas were mounted to Thirty Shillings, that therefore to our great loſs, all *Europe* ſent that Commodity to this profitable Market; and would continue to do ſo, till we ſhould be impoveriſh'd and undone by our Plenty of Gold. That we muſt Exchange for their Gold, our Goods or our Silver, till at laſt we ſhould have only Guineas to Trade withall; which no Body could think our Neighbours would be ſo kind to receive back at the Value they were at here. That therefore this Diſeaſe would every day take deeper Root, infect the very Vitals of the Nation; and if not remedy'd, would ſoon become deplorable. That our Enemys would ſooner be induc'd to agree to honourable Terms of Peace, in caſe they ſaw us able to ſurmount this difficulty by the retrieving the ill State of our Coin, on which their hopes of our ſpeedy Ruin ſo much depended. That it would juſtly create a mighty Eſteem abroad of the Greatneſs and Wiſdom of the Parliament of *England*, which was able to Conquer ſuch an obſtinate and almoſt inſu-

perable Evil in ſuch a Juncture of Affairs. That our Enemys muſt be mightily intimidated by ſo great an Action; and that it would be Natural for them to conclude, that nothing would be impoſſible for a People, who were able to diſengage themſelves from ſuch an intricate Miſchief, and get above Difficultys that were look'd on as invincible.

This Matter being fully debated, after all their Deliberations, the Parliament reſolv'd to call in and recoin our Money, looking on it as an Eſſential and Capital Point that requir'd, as certainly it did, their immediate Application, and utmoſt Care. They reſolv'd to do it at any Rate; and to uſe all imaginable Endeavours to make it as eaſy to the People as it was poſſible for ſuch a Remedy to be. They choſe rather to run the hazard of ſome great Inconveniencys, by attempting the Cure, than by their longer neglect of it, to expoſe the Kingdom to apparent Ruin.

This Step being made, the next was to conſider whether the ſeveral Denominations of our New Money ſhould have the ſame Weight and Fineneſs as the Old, or whether the Eſtabliſh'd Standard ſhould be rais'd; and this Queſtion produc'd many Debates.

Thoſe who were for raiſing the Standard argu'd thus: That the Standard of our Coin'd Silver ought to bear Proportion to Silver in Bullion. That the Price of an Ounce of Silver Bullion was advanc'd

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to Six Shillings and Three Pence; and therefore the Standard ought to be rais'd to an Equality. That the raiſing our Standard would prevent the Exportation of our Coin, which had been much practis'd to the great Prejudice of this Kingdom; that it would prevent its being melted down; and Men would be encourag'd to bring in their Plate and Bullion to the Mint.

Thoſe who were for preſerving the Old Standard in our Coin, urg'd that the worth of Mony was Relative, and to be rated by the meaſure of ſuch Goods, Labour, Advice, Skill or other Aſſiſtances, as could be purchas'd from another by our parting with it. That the Value of Mony among People that liv'd under different Municipal Laws was intrinſick, and conſiſted in its Weight and Fineneſs. That common Conſent had given it this Value for the common Conveniency of ſupplying one anothers Wants. That the Weight and Fineneſs was the only Worth that other Nations regarded in our Coin, or we in theirs. All Mony being between Subjects of different Governments, of no greater Value, excepting the Workmanſhip, than ſo many pieces of uncoin'd Bullion. That therefore ſhould our Standard be alter'd, we ſhould ſtill be upon the ſame Foot with our Neighbours; for if we were to pay them for their Goods, or exchange our Mony with theirs, whatever Denomination we gave our

Mony, they would in their Change ever reduce it to an Equality with theirs, and proportion the Quantity and Goodneſs of their Commoditys to the Weight and Fineneſs of the Mony they were to receive for them. That therefore in reſpect of our Foreign Commerce, there was no reaſon to alter our Standard. And at home, they ſaid, that if the Standard was rais'd, great Confuſions would attend it, the Landlord would be defrauded of a great part of his Rents, and the Creditor of his Debts. That the Seamen and the Soldier would be wrong'd in their Pay, *&c.* and many the like Injurys and Inconveniencys would happen: That it was no Anſwer to ſay, they might buy as much Goods and Conveniencys of Life with this Coin rais'd above its Standard, as they could before; becauſe by degrees, the Seller would infallibly raiſe the Price of his Goods in proportion to the new rais'd Standard; and that of this there was an inſtance before them, all Commoditys being greatly rais'd in their Price, while Guineas were paid for Thirty Shillings. That whereas it was alledg'd that the Price of Bullion was riſen to Six Shillings and Three pence, and therefore the Standard of our Silver Coin ought to be rais'd likewiſe; It was reply'd, that it was a thing impoſſible that the Price of Silver could ever riſe and fall in reſpect of it ſelf; That it was an unchangeable Truth, than which no Mathematical Demonſtration could

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be clearer, that one Ounce of Silver would be ever worth another Ounce of the ſame Fineneſs, and no more, allowing ſome inconſiderable diſparity upon the account of the Coin, if one Ounce be in Mony, and the other Ounce in Bullion. That 'twas true indeed, that the People commonly gave Six Shillings and Three Pence for an Ounce of Bullion; but they gave only Clipt Pieces, that had no more than the Name or Sound of Shillings and Pence, but were by no means the Things themſelves. That is, they were not the Standard Shillings of due Weight and Fineneſs, and ſo were no more Shillings in the juſt ſenſe of the word, than an Ell is an Ell when the third part of it is cut off, or two halfs of a broken Yard are each of them a whole one. That the Caſe was ſo plain, that when they demanded of thoſe that affirm'd an Ounce of Bullion was worth ſix ſhillings and three pence, whether they meant ſix Mill'd Shillings and three pence, they knew not what to reply; for this alteration of the Value of Bullion was meerly in relation to the diminiſh'd Mony. And to make it yet more evident, they urg'd that it was then matter of Fact, that with Five Shillings and two pence of new Mill'd Mony, they could buy as much Bullion as they pleas'd, while thoſe who bought it with Clipt Pieces paid ſix ſhillings and three pence. That whereas it was urg'd that the raiſing the Standard would prevent the Exportation of our Mony;

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it was reply'd, that there was no other way poſſibe to keep our Mony at home than by out-trading our Neighbours; that is, by ſending them more Commoditys, or of greater Value, than thoſe we receiv'd from them; for if ſo be upon the Ballance of Trade we were found in their Debt, there was no way left but to pay it in Coin or Bullion; and that therefore whatever Denomination we gave our Coin, we muſt be neceſſitated to ſend it abroad, if the Commoditys we Exported could not pay our Debts. That all the other Arguments for raiſing the Standard would ſink to the ground, in caſe theſe Two on which the reſt were built, had no reaſonable Foundation. After the Debates on this Subject, the Houſe came to a Reſolution, to recoin the Mony according to the Old Standard, both as to Weight and Fineneſs. And to make it more eaſy to the People, they Voted a Recompence for the Deficiency of the Clipt Mony.

When the Parliament undertook this ſowr and knotty piece of work, they were not inſenſible of the inconveniencys that would ariſe from it; the Principal of which, and the Spring of moſt of the reſt, would be a Ceſſation of Payments, and thereupon an interruption of Commerce for want of the Circulation of our Mony during its recoining. This Trading Nation could not live, unleſs this Vital Current was conſtantly maintain'd; and our Gold alone

alone was not ſufficient for that purpoſe. To obviate this Evil, which muſt have been fatal had it not been prevented, was enough to try the Skill, and ſtretch the Imagination of the ableſt Stateſmen. 'Twas plain, *England* could not ſubſiſt unleſs ſome Expedient was found out to ſupport its Trade, till the New Mony return'd from the Mint; and to hit of ſuch an Expedient, was indeed a very difficult Task. They therefore agreed to call in the Mony by degrees; that while ſome Denominations of Coin were ſuppreſs'd, others might be Current, hoping that before the laſt Old Mony ſhould come in to be recoin'd, ſo much of the New might Circulate from the Mint, as might ſufficiently anſwer the Neceſſitys of the Nation. But this expectation was partly defeated by the backwardneſs of the People to receive any Old Mony, tho' allow'd at preſent to paſs, apprehending at laſt it would be left upon their hands at a great Loſs, partly from the ſlowneſs of recoining in reſpect of the Peoples Wants, tho' otherwiſe diſpatcht with all the Expedition imaginable in ſo great an Affair, and partly by reaſon of the unequal intrinſick Value between the New Mill'd Mony and thoſe Pieces or Denominations of the Old which were allow'd to be Current, and in which Payments were uſually made; for while the Hammer'd Mony, and Pieces not Clipt within the Ring, were permitted to paſs for the preſent neceſſity of Trade, no

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body was willing to make Payments in New Mony, which ſo much exceeded the Old in its intrinſick Worth. And therefore the New Silver Mony as faſt as it iſſued from the Mints and the Exchequer, was in a great meaſure ſtopt in the hands of the firſt Receivers; for none were diſpos'd to make Payments in the New Silver Coin at the Old Standard, when they could do it in Clipt Pieces ſo much below it. And thoſe who had no Payments to make, kept their New Mony as Medals and Raritys in their Cheſts; and there is too much reaſon to believe, that at firſt a great deal of the New Mony by help of the Melting Pot, went abroad in Ingots to purchaſe Gold, which at that Juncture was a very profitable Commodity in *England*.

And tho' the Parliament lower'd the Value of Guineas, as ſhall be afterwards mention'd, hoping by that means to bring out the New Mony into Circulation, yet by the Artifice and Managery of ſome Men, the People were made to believe that the Value of Guineas would be rais'd at the next Seſſion, upon which abundance of Men that had great Sums of Guineas in their Cheſts, kept them cloſe there, in expectation of their being rais'd in Value when the Parliament ſhould come next together. By this means tho' the Circulation of the New Nony was a little promoted, yet that of Guineas, by which we then chiefly ſubſiſted, was quite ob-

obſtructed, this Golden Coin, which was before incredibly frequent vaniſh'd on a ſuddain; and the New Silver Mony too, the Value of which the People were likewiſe perſwaded to believe, would be advanc'd the next Seſſion, was for that reaſon in a great meaſure hoarded up, to the great damage of our Commerce; for by this means the Nation was reduc'd to very great Straits, eſpecially in their Payments of Foreign Bills.

The Parliament about this time took into Conſideration the lowering the Value of Guineas, to which the People had rais'd them. The Reaſons againſt ſinking their Value were, That the People were eaſy and pleas'd with it, and it would raiſe a great Diſturbance and Clamour in the Nation, to fix them at a lower Price. That abundance of People would be Loſers in whoſe hands the Guineas ſhould be at laſt found. That the Farmer and Common Tradeſman, who now all abounded with Guineas which they receiv'd at Thirty Shillings, would not bear ſuch a loſs. That therefore it ought to be conſider'd, how far it was fit to incenſe the Common People in this Juncture of Affairs, who had already ſuffer'd ſo much by the War.

Thoſe who were for reducing the Price of Guineas, argu'd, That there was as great reaſon to bring down Guineas, as there was to recoin the Silver Mony at the Old Standard; and here they reckon'd up the Miſchiefs mention'd before on that Head: That however, the Parliament were oblig'd to manage by the neceſſity of

Affairs, and to ſuffer for a time the Guineas to paſs at that exceſſive Rate, that in ſome meaſure there might be a currency of Mony, while the Mints were employ'd in new Coining the Silver; yet now they were oblig'd to ſink the Price nearer the Old Standard, that the Silver Mony might not be ſtopt and hoarded up as faſt as iſſued out from the Mints. And whatever Loſſes and inconveniencys the People might ſuffer by the reducing of Guineas, yet the Miſchiefs that aroſe, and would dayly increaſe from not doing it, did infinitely over-balance thoſe on the other ſide. Upon this the Houſe reſolv'd to lower the Price of Guineas; and that they might do it with leſs Grievance and Diſquiet to the People, they choſe to ſink them by degrees, till at laſt they reduc'd them to the State they are now in, that is, that they ſhould not paſs in Payments for above Twenty two Shillings; that by this means Guineas being brought near to an Equality with our new Silver Mony, the Circulation of the laſt might not be obſtructed; and the Event anſwer'd the Expectation.

But notwithſtanding all the Care which the Parliament us'd to provide againſt the Miſchiefs they foreſaw were likely to follow, yet many great Inconveniencys were unavoidable: And, one Evil aroſe during recoining the Mony; that is, a general loſs of Credit, which indeed ſhook the State; but this likewiſe was Cur'd by a moſt ſeaſonable and wiſe Remedy, which the Parliament apply'd in their ſecond Seſſion. So that

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at laſt this great undertaking of the higheſt Difficulty, yet of abſolute Neceſſity, was happily accompliſh'd. In this Affair the Parliament ſhew'd ſuch Wiſdom, ſuch Care of the Publick, ſuch unbroken Courage and Reſolution in undertaking and carrying on a Buſineſs of this Importance, and incumber'd with ſo many and ſuch great Obſtructions, that no Patriots ever merited more of their Country, none having ever reſcu'd it from greater, and more apparent Danger. By reſtoring our Coin, they reſtor'd Health and Strength to a Nation under the worſt Symptoms in the World. They reſtor'd the Honour of the *Engliſh*, confirm'd the Shaking Government, and laid the Foundation of that Honourable Peace, which after enſued, and which we now enjoy.

And thoſe worthy Gentlemen who made the greateſt Figure in this Parliament, and had the chief Direction of this particular Affair, muſt be allow'd to have ſhown a great Capacity and a Maſtery Judgment, as well as a juſt regard to the Good of the People, and therefore no Votes in their Favour, no Praiſes and Thanks from their Country, can be thought too much for thoſe who have ſo well deſerv'd them.

No part of the *Roman* Hiſtory gives a Man a greater Image of that noble People, than that which relates the Preſence of Mind, the unſhaken Conſtancy, and the wiſe Conduct which the Senate ſhow'd after the loſs of the Battel of *Cannæ*: To be uncapable of

deſponding even in Extremity of Affairs, to wind themſelves out of ſuch intricate and pinching Straits, and at laſt to weather Difficulties which ſeem'd inſuperable, this can't but create a great Opinion of their Wiſdom and Reſolution.

Some of his Majeſties implacable Enemys finding themſelves diſappointed the laſt Year in *Flanders*, and being impatient to wait the event of another Campaign, betook themſelves to the moſt wicked and moſt diſhonourable means of accompliſhing their Deſigns.

Upon the twenty fourth of *February*, the King came to the Houſe of Lords, ſent for the Commons, and having paſs'd what Acts lay ready for the Royal Aſſent, in a gracious Speech he acquainted both Houſes, that he had receiv'd ſeveral concurring Informations of a Deſign to Aſſaſſinate him; and that at the ſame time the Enemy was very forward in his Preparations for an Invaſion of this Kingdom. That he had given Orders about the Fleet, and ſent for ſuch a Number of Troops as might ſecure the Kingdom from any Attempt; that ſome of the Conſpirators againſt his Perſon were in Cuſtody, and that care was taken for apprehending the reſt. 'Tis not neceſſary to give a long Relation of this Conſpiracy, a ſhort account is thus.

Several of the late Kings Adherents not without the Conſent, Encouragement and Direction of the late King and his Miniſters, had form'd a helliſh Conſpiracy againſt the Life of his Majeſty. The Conduct and

Execution

Execution of this horrid Villany was comitted to Sir *George Barclay*, who had formerly been a General Officer, and was then in *France*, an Officer in the late King's Guards. This Gentleman-Ruffian undertakes the barbarous Buſineſs; and for the accompliſhing of it, departs from St.*Germains* about the tenth day of *December* for *England*, where he arriv'd about the beginning of *January*. Before him, with him, or after him, about twenty more of the late King's Guards, who were Embark'd in the ſame Bloody Deſign, and who had all Inſtructions to obey the Orders of Sir *George*, came into *England*, where in a ſhort time they Engag'd about as many more in the Conſpiracy. Several Conſultations were held, and ſeveral Ways were propos'd, where, and how to Aſſaſſinate the King's Perſon, and at laſt it was agreed that they ſhould Execute their Deſign on a *Saturday* as his Majeſty return'd from *Richmond*, whither he us'd to go on that day, to take the diverſion of Hunting.

The Place agreed on was the Lane between *Turnham-Green*, and *Brentford*, thro' which the King was to paſs after his Landing at *Que-ferry*, and to avoid Suſpicion they were to go out of Town in ſmall Numbers to the Inns in *Turnham-Green*, there to ſtay, till they had notice that his Majeſties Guards appear'd, and then they were to Mount, and in a Body to march to the Lane, where ſome where to Attack the King's Perſon, and the reſt in the mean time were to Engage

gage the Guards. The day for Executing this horrid Deed was at hand, when Mr. *Pendergraſs* who had been newly made acquainted with the Deſign, and ſeem'd to conſent to it, tho' indeed he only comply'd with it, till he could gain the fitteſt Opportunity to diſcover it, went to my Lord *Portland*, and diſclos'd to him this important Secret. By whoſe means his Majeſty's Life was preſerv'd from the violence of the Conſpirators, and that fatal Stroke moſt happily prevented; which muſt have been attended with all the terrible Calamitys, that Fear it ſelf is able to repreſent.

Both Houſes of Parliament were greatly alarm'd at the news of this Barbarous Conſpiracy, and being ſatisfi'd that the welfare of the Kingdom entirely depended on the Safety of the King's Perſon, they joyn'd in an Addreſs to his Majeſty full of Loyalty and the warmeſt Affection; wherein they Congratulated the happy Deliverance of his Royal Perſon, gave him thanks for imparting to them the horrid Deſign of Aſſaſſinating his Majeſty by Papiſts, and other diſaffected Perſons, and of the intended Invaſion from *France*. Humbly deſir'd his Majeſty to take more then ordinary Care of his Perſon at this time, aſſur'd him that they would ſtand by, aſſiſt and defend his Majeſty with their Lives and Fortunes againſt all his Enemys, and that in caſe he ſhould come to any violent Death (which they beg'd God to prevent) they would revenge the ſame upon all his Majeſty's Ene-

Enemys and their Adherents; told his Majeſty they would give all poſſible diſpatch to publick Buſineſs, and deſir'd him to ſeize and ſecure all Perſons, Horſes and Arms, that he might think fit to apprehend.

On this Occaſion the Houſe of Commons for the Security of his Majeſty's Perſon, enter'd into an Aſſociation in theſe Words. *Whereas there has been a horrid and deteſtable Conſpiracy form'd and carry'd on by the Papiſts, and other Wicked and Traiterous Perſons, for Aſſaſſinating his Majeſty's Royal Perſon, in order to encourage an Invaſion from* France, *to ſubvert our Religion, Laws and Libertys, We whoſe Names are hereunto Subſcrib'd, do heartily, ſincerely, and ſolemnly profeſs, teſtify and declare, that his preſent Majeſty* King William, *is Rightful and Lawful King of theſe Realms, and we do mutually promiſe and engage to ſtand by and Aſſiſt each other to the utmoſt of our Power, to the Support and Defence of his Majeſtys moſt ſacred Perſon and Government, againſt the late* King James *and all his Adherents; and in caſe his Majeſty come to a violent or untimely Death (which God forbid) we do hereby farther, freely and unanimouſly oblige our ſelves to Unite, Aſſociate and ſtand by each other, in revenging the ſame upon his Enemys and their Adherents, and in ſupporting and defending the Succeſſion of the Crown, according to an Act made in the firſt Year of* King William *and Queen* Mary: *Intituled, and Act declaring the Rights and Libertys of the Subject, and ſetling the Succeſſion of the Crown.*

They

They order'd at the ſame time a Bill to be brought in, that when it ſhould pleaſe God to afflict theſe Realms by the Death of his preſent Majeſty, the Parliament then in being ſhould not be diſſolv'd thereby, till the next Heir of the Crown, according to the late Act of Settlement ſhould diſſolve it. And if there is no Parliament then in being, the laſt preceding Parliament ſhall immediately convene and ſit; and it was done accordingly. By this wiſe Act, as the Parliament provided againſt that Confuſion and Diſorder that might happen by the Ceſſation of Parliaments, and all Commiſſions on his Majeſty's Deceaſe, ſo nothing could have been imagin'd more effectual for the Security of the King's unvaluable Life, againſt the implacable Malice and Violence of his Enemys, ſeeing by this means all hopes of Eſcape and Impunity were cut off, in caſe they ſhould ſucceed in their helliſh Attempt. They likewiſe Addreſs'd his Majeſty to iſſue out his Royal Proclamation, to Baniſh all Papiſts from the Citys of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and ten Miles from the ſame, according to the Laws made for that purpoſe; and likewiſe, that he would pleaſe to give inſtructions to the Judges going the Circuits, to put the Laws in Execution againſt Papiſts and Non-Jurors.

By theſe Proceedings and prudent Proviſions for the King's Safety, the Parliament equally expreſs'd their unalterable Loyalty to his Majeſty, and their tender

der Care and Vigilance for the Happineſs of the People; it being as clear as Noon-day, that had not his Majeſty by the gracious Providence of Heaven, been deliver'd from this Helliſh Deſign, the greateſt Calamitys and Deſolation muſt have overwhelm'd the Kingdom, that ever befel a miſerable People: And 'tis very obſervable, and muſt be taken notice of, for the Honour of this Parliament, that amidſt all their Zeal for ſecuring his Majeſty's Life, on which all our Happineſs depended, they expreſs'd that Lenity and Memorable Regard to the Libertys of the People, that they paſs'd no new and extraordinary Law for the Conviction of the Conſpirators, as Men in ſuch amazing Dangers might have been provoked to do for the Preſervation of the Government; but they mercifully left them to ſtand or fall by the known Laws which were then in being. And 'tis very remarkable, that one of the Perſons try'd for this Conſpiracy, was the firſt that had the Benefit of the Law that was before mention'd to be made this very Seſſion to regulate Tryals in Caſes of Treaſon.

There is but one ſingle Inſtance that ſeems to contradict the univerſal Extent of this Obſervation; and that is the Caſe of Sir *John Fenwick*, which happen'd in the Second Seſſion of this Parliament; yet neither in that Caſe was any new Law made for the Trial of the Criminal by the Judges in Inferiour Courts: But the Parliament thought fit to make uſe of the Legiſlative Authority, and to proceed againſt him by Bill

of Attainder, which no Body queſtion'd their Power to do. That Government would be defective in its Conſtitution, and uncapable of defending it ſelf, that had not a Power lodg'd in it to reach a Criminal in an extraordinary Caſe, by an extraordinary Manner. Neither could the Legiſlative Power be look'd on as under the ſame Reſtraints, Limitations and Forms of Proceeding, which the Judges who are entruſted only with the executive part of the Law, are oblig'd to obſerve in the ordinary Courts of Juſtice. The Queſtions therefore in this Caſe, ſeem'd to be only theſe two, Whether the Parliament had ſufficent convincing Grounds to believe the Priſoner Guilty of the Treaſon of which he ſtood accus'd; and in the ſecond Place, Whether this was a Caſe of that extraordinary Nature, and that Importance, as required this uncommon way of proceeding by Bill of Attainder. As to the firſt Queſtion, All the World as well as the Parliament, thought there was ſufficient Reaſon to believe the Priſoner Guilty. But whether the Evidence was in all Forms and Limitations ſuch as the Law required for convicting the Priſoner before the Judges in Inferiour Courts, was out of the Queſtion, the Parliament as was ſaid before, being not ty'd up in their Legiſlative Capacity to the Rules and Reſtraints by which the Inferiour Courts were oblig'd to Act. And as to the ſecond Queſtion, Seeing the Priſoner had ſo notoriouſly prevaricated with the Government, ſeeing there was ſuch a vehement Preſumption that one of the Evi-

dences

dences was drawn off, and abſented himſelf by the management of the Priſoner's Friends, to elude the Law in the common Courſe of it; and ſeeing the Crime wherewith he was Charg'd, was of no lower Nature than the dethroning of his Majeſty and the Subverſion of the Government, the Parliament believ'd it a Caſe ſo Extraordinary and of ſuch Conſequence, as ſufficiently warranted this uncommon, tho' not unexampled way of Proceeding.

Theſe were the chief Tranſactions of this Parliament in their Firſt Seſſion, thoſe of the Second come now to be related.

The great Deficiencys of the Funds ſettled by Parliament for the Service of the Year Ninty Six, and particularly the unhappy Project of the Land-Bank proving wholly Abortive, and not producing one Penny, of above two Millions and a half, with which it was charg'd, were likely to have prov'd fatal to our Affairs the following Summer. This Diſappointment involv'd the King in ſo many great Difficulties Abroad, as well as Home, that no clearer Demonſtration could be given of his Majeſty's wiſe Conduct, or of the Fidelity and Affection of his Army, than his finiſhing this Campaign with ſo little Diſadvantage. His Majeſtys more diſcenting Friends could not but tremble, to think on the hard Circumſtances our Army was in; and how dangerous the Iſſue was like to prove; while the Enemys of the Government were all overjoy'd at the hopeful Proſpect of our ſuddain

Ruin. But to their great Mortification his Majeſty, whoſe Spirit was never broken by the greateſt Difficulty; who never wanted Preſence of Mind in the moſt ſurprizing and pinching Exigencys, by the aſſiſtance of Divine Providence weather'd this Storm; and having put his Army into Quarters, return'd in Safety to meet his Parliament.

The Parliament came together the twentieth day of *October*, and after they had in a Loyal and moſt affectionate Addreſs aſſur'd His Majeſty, that tho' they had born ſo many Years the great Burden of the preſent War, yet they were moſt ſtedfaſtly reſolv'd never to deſert his Intereſts, or be wanting to their Country, till by His Majeſty's Arms they ſhould obtain a ſafe and honourable Peace. They enter'd with great chearfulneſs upon the Buſineſs that lay before them, which indeed was very great.

The principal Evil which this Parliament had to remove, was the loſs of Publick Credit. For the Tallys ſtruck on Funds ſetled by Parliament, eſpecially ſuch as were remote, were Exchang'd for ready Mony at a mighty loſs; and the Government was oblig'd to make exceſſive Diſcounts and Allowances, to bring Treaſure into the Exchequer. This great and almoſt fatal loſs of Credit, aroſe chiefly from two Springs, the Deficiencys of Parliamentary Funds, and the Recoining our Silver. The Firſt made Truſt and Confidence, as the Laſt made Mony to be very ſcarce.

This

This loſs of Credit was ſo great, that unleſs it were reſtor'd, it was not poſſible for the Government to continue much longer; The Notes of the Bank of *England* which had been a mighty help to the Publick, were diſcounted at Twenty, Tallys at Forty, Fifty, or Sixty *per Cent.* The Government had contracted a mighty Debt; and ſome Funds were wholly taken away, and the reſt prov'd Deficient; great Numbers of Tallys had no Funds at all, and the reſt were on Funds very remote. Hereby the Truſt and good Opinion of the People was ſo far loſt, that thoſe few who had any Mony to Lend, ſhew'd the greateſt backwardneſs imaginable to advance it for the publick Service; and therefore all Loans to the Government, as was ſaid before, were procur'd on moſt immoderate Premiums, and exorbitant Diſcounts.

This decay of publick Credit created the greateſt Confuſion and Diſorder in the World; our Affairs ſeem'd reduc'd to Extremity, and the Government was look'd on to be at a ſtand. All Men were at a Gaze, and ſtood wondering what the Parliament would do; what Meaſures they would take in ſuch perplexing Difficultys, ſcarce believing that the Wit of Man was able to find out any Remedy, or propoſe any Expedient that could be effectual in removing ſo great a Miſchief. Thoſe who were for galling and ſtreightning the Government, had now the wicked Satisfaction of ſeeing it ſufficiently diſtreſs'd; it not being poſſible that our Affairs could be more embaraſs'd than they were in this Conjuncture. To

To revive publick Credit was therefore a thing of the laſt neceſſity for the Preſervation of the Government; but as the wiſeſt Men without Door were at their Wits end how to acompliſh it, ſo the Malecontents were certain that this Evil was never to be cur'd; and therefore look'd upon the Government as near its End; gave it up as deſperate; and triumph'd in the Expectation of a ſuddain Revolution.

But this great Parliament being fully ſenſible that the Reſtoration of our Credit was a point of Capital Importance, inſtead of being diſcourag'd by the Difficulty of effecting it, they were rather animated to undertake the Work with greater Zeal and Application; as if they look'd on nothing which was neceſſary to be impoſſible; and reſolv'd at any Rate to find out Means to preſerve their Country, and to break thro' all Oppoſition how great ſoever it ſhould appear, to confirm and ſecure our Happy Eſtabliſhment.

The Parliament was very ſenſible, that one great Spring of this Miſchief was that mentioned before, the Deficiencys of ſeveral Aids and Dutys which neither had been, nor ever would be ſufficient to anſwer the Principal and Intereſt charg'd upon 'em. That theſe Deficiencys, and the remoteneſs of the courſe of Payment of the Tallys, were the true Reaſons why the Owners of ſuch Tallys were frequently neceſſitated for the procuring of ready Mony, to diſpoſe of and exchange them at a great Loſs. By which means the publick Credit was extreamly weaken'd, our Commerce

merce interrupted, and other publick and private Affairs exceedingly perplex'd. The Parliament therefore took this great Affair into their ſerious Conſideration, and in order to the Cure of this grievous Wound which began to Ulcerate and Eat into the very Heart of the Government, they reſolv'd to ſearch it and lay it open to the Bottom.

This they did by ordering an Eſtimate or Computation to be laid before them of what Sums were, or would be wanting to ſatisfy and diſcharge all Principal and Intereſt due, or to become due on the ſeveral Aids, Dutys or Funds, over and above all Arrears ſtanding out upon them which were determin'd, and over and above all Monys to be rais'd by ſuch as were then unexpir'd; and the Computation of all the particular Sums that were wanting to make good all the deficient Funds being made, the whole amounted to five Millions one Hundred and ſixty Thouſand four Hundred Pounds, *&c.* The Parliament now having got to the bottom of the Diſeaſe, reſolv'd on a through Cure, by making Proviſion for the Payment of the whole Debt. They were perfectly convinc'd that to cure a part, was no way to cure the Diſeaſe, and reſtore Strength to the Whole. Had ſome Deficiencys been taken Care of and others neglected, publick Credit muſt have continued Lame; and the Government muſt ſtill have Halted, if it had not fall'n to the Ground. That therefore the Remedy might be Adequate and Commenſurate to the Evil, the Parliament found

found out a general Fund which might ſecure the Payment of the whole five Millions, *&c.* That ſo they ſhould remain no Tally without a Fund, nor any Tally on a deficient Fund, but what in its courſe of Payment ſhould be ſatisfy'd and diſcharg'd. For this End they continued divers Taxes and Dutys after the Day on which they would otherwiſe have Expir'd to the firſt Day of *Auguſt* ſeventeen Hundred and ſix, and appointed all the Monys which ſhould ariſe and be brought into his Majeſty's Exchequer from any of theſe Taxes or Dutys from the Day on which they were otherwiſe to Expire, to the ſaid firſt Day of *Auguſt* one Thouſand ſeven Hundred and ſix, to be the general Fund for making good all the deficient ones, by the Satisfaction and Payment of the Principal and Intereſt due, or to become due thereupon. And that all occaſion of Complaint might be remov'd, and equal Proviſion might be made for all, the Parliament directed that all Monys ariſing from the Dutys ſo as before continued and appropriated for a general Fund, ſhould be diſtributed and apply'd to pay Principal and Intereſts upon every one of the deficient Funds, in juſt Proportion to the Sum of which they were deficient. And that all the Mony which ſhould be in ſuch a due proportion diſtributed or plac'd to the Account of each deficient Tax and Fund for the diſcharge of Principal and Intereſt, ſhould be Iſſu'd or Paid out to all who were entitled to receive the ſame, in ſuch Courſe and Order as if the ſame were Monys really

really arising by the respective and deficient Funds, and that without being diverted, misapply'd or post-pon'd; and the Officers of his Majesty's Treasury were to incur great Penaltys in case this Method or Order were not observ'd. And to remove all Doubts about the Security intended to be given, in case on the first of *August* seventeen Hundred and six, or within three Months then next ensuing, the whole Produce of the several Funds and Revenues appropriated for a general Fund, together with other Grants then in being, should not be sufficient to discharge the Sum of five Millions, &c. intended to be discharg'd, that then what was deficient should be made good out of such Aids or Revenues as should be granted in the next Session of Parliament.

Thus the Parliament found out a Security sufficient to discharge this great Debt that lay so heavy on the Nation, which was not only a stroke of admirable Wisdom, but likewise such a noble Act of publick Justice, as perhaps can't be equal'd in the Story of any Nation. Mony at that time was not in being, and therefore not to be had; and a sufficient Security was all that could be Demanded or Expected; and this was very happily provided for, wherein a due Regard was had to the particular Interest of every Man concern'd. And for as much as all the Branches of publick Credit did plainly depend on, and mutually support one another, the Parliament took into consideration, by what means they might restore the Credit of the Bank of *England* which was then at a low Ebb.

In order to this the Parliament agreed, to augment and enlarge the common Capital Stock of the Bank of *England* by admitting new Subſcriptions, which new Subſcriptions ſhould be made good in Tallys and Bank Notes. The Proportion was four fifths of the Firſt and one fifth of the Laſt, and an Intereſt of eight *per Cent.* was allow'd, as well for all ſuch Tallys as ſhould be brought in to enlarge their Stock by new Subſcriptions, as for thoſe Tallys which the Company was then poſſeſs'd of, provided they did not exceed the Value of thoſe Bank Notes which ſhould be paid in upon this Enlargement of their Stock; and for ſecuring the Payments of this Intereſt of eight *per Cent*, the additional Duty on Salt was granted and appropriated. The Time likewiſe of the continuance of the Bank of *England* they thought fit to extend to the Year ſeventeen Hundred and ten; and upon this Encouragement a Million was Subſcribed and Paid in Tallys and Bank Notes, as the Parliament had directed. This Expedient was projected with all the Prudence imaginable; and tho' many Perſons who were Intereſted in it, could not preſently apprehend the Reaſonableneſs of it, yet the Advantages they have ſince receiv'd, have fully convinc'd them that no other Way could have been found out to have retriev'd their ſinking Credit. For the Value of two Hundred Thouſand Pounds in Bank Notes being ſunk by the new Subſcriptions, the reſt as it was reaſonable to believe they would, began preſently to riſe in Worth; and ſo likewiſe did the

the Tallys, after ſo many as amounted to eight Hundred Thouſand Pounds were Paid in to augment the Bank. And the Owners of the reſt have a great deal of Reaſon to wiſh that they had ſunk the remainder alſo the ſame way; for had that been done, this great Work had been accompliſh'd at one happy Stroke. The whole five Millions had in a Moment been taken off from the Government, and thereby a Diſeaſe that was judg'd Incurable had been entirely remov'd by a ſingle Application. For upon this, the Credit of the Bank began to recover apace, till in a ſhort time their Notes were all equal with, and their Bills that bore Intereſt, better than Mony. By this means the Face of Affairs was in a ſhort time much chang'd for the better, Credit began to revive, Mony to Circulate on more moderate Terms. Foreign Exchange was leſs to our Diſadvantage, and ſoon after at an Equality. The People began to think better of their Condition, and were more convinc'd of the Wiſdom of our Adminiſtration, and of the Care that was taken of 'em; and whatever Hardſhips they had undergone by reaſon of a long War and the recoining our Mony, which could not but occaſion many Complaints, yet the greateſt part attributed this to the neceſſity of our Affairs, and began to Hope, that by the Care and Wiſdom of the Government they ſhould ſoon enjoy more favourable Times.

Beſides this of the great loſs of Credit, another Evil of no leſs Difficulty or Importance remain'd ſtill

to be remov'd, and that was the great ſcarcity of Mony. The Parliament to prevent Diſappointments by ſetling Funds which might be deficient came to a Reſolution, that the Supplys for the Service of the Year following, ſhould be rais'd within the Year; and they Voted thoſe Supplys in proportion to the Eſtimates laid before them. But this Reſolution of Parliament ſeem'd a Thing quite Impracticable. How could five Millions be rais'd within the Year, while the Silver Mony was call'd in and recoining, and there was not Current Coin enough in the Nation to anſwer the Occaſions of Trade, and ſcarcely the Conveniencys and Neceſſitys of Life? The Enemys of the Government made themſelves Merry with this Vote of Parliament, and inſtead of being the occaſion of their Anger 'twas the common Subject of their Raillery, and the Entertainment of their pleaſant Humour. And many even of the beſt Friends of the Government, imagin'd that the Parliament by this, rather expreſs'd their Zeal and Willingneſs, than their Ability to ſupport the State. They had no way to ſatisfy themſelves in this Point, but by relying upon the Wiſdom and great Capacity of the Parliament, for whom they believ'd nothing was too hard, and who they hoped would Conquer this Difficulty becauſe they had maſter'd ſo many others before; which were look'd on as no leſs Invincible. Neither were their Hopes in this Matter diſappointed, for the Parliament had recourſe to an admirable Expedient in this preſſing Exigency, and found

found out a way of raiſing Mony, in a Juncture when no Mony was to be had. Other Parliaments have been able to raiſe great Sums of Mony when the defence of their Country requir'd it, but it was the particular Honour of this, to have been able to make it. They created Mony without Bullion, and diſtributed great quantity of Coin without help of the Mint. This they did by authoriſing the Lords of his Majeſty's Treaſury to iſſue out Bills from the Exchequer to the value firſt and laſt, of above two Millions; which Bills were firſt appointed to be brought in and ſunk upon the Duty commonly call'd the Capitation Tax; but before the Seſſion ended the Parliament was convinc'd by the firſt Collection of that Duty, that it would prove very deficient; and therefore they appointed the Exchequer Bills to be brought in on any other of the King's Dutys or Revenues, excepting the Land Tax; and allow'd an Intereſt of ſeven Pound twelve Shillings *per Annum* upon the ſaid Bills, which at firſt was not given. The Parliament by this laid a good Foundation for Paper Mony to ſupply the place of our Silver Coin, which was call'd in to be new made; for ſo many Payments were at this time to be made into the Exchequer, that when the People had Aſſurance given them that the Exchequer Notes ſhould be receiv'd back again in Payment for the King's Dutys, they were very well ſatisfy'd to take them, at firſt indeed at a ſmall diſcount, but not long after at an Equality. A great number of theſe Notes were only

for

for five or ten Pounds, which anſwer'd the neceſſitys of Commerce among the meaner People, for the common Conveniencys of Life. And that thoſe who had advanc'd Mony in Loans on any part of his Majeſty's Revenue, might not be oblig'd to receive it back in Notes that were under the Value of Mony, to ſtrengthen the Reputation of theſe Bills, the Parliament authoriz'd the Lords of the Treaſury to Contract with any Corporations or Numbers of private Men, and to allow them a competent *Premium*, provided they oblig'd themſelves to exchange theſe Notes for ready Mony when tender'd to them for that purpoſe; which the Lords of the Treaſury did accordingly.

By this means the Credit of the aforeſaid Notes was mightily ſecur'd, and dayly aroſe nearer to *Par*; till as at this time, they exceeded the Value of Mony; and whereas the Truſtees contracted with to exchange them for Mony, were before as a *Premium* allow'd Ten *per Cent.* they have been ſince contented to do it for Four. By this means Trade and Commerce were maintain'd; and without Silver we had an Artificial Treaſure Circulating thro' the Kingdom, which ſo well anſwer'd the deſign of the wiſe Projectors, that by the Confeſſion of thoſe very Men who at firſt inveigh'd ſharply againſt it, it prov'd an effectual, tho' a Paper Prop to ſupport the State, when its Silver Pillars were for a time remov'd. We were Sailing in bad Weather, and our main Maſt was brought by the Board; and 'tis very plain, that unleſs this Jury-Maſt of Exchequer

Notes

Notes had been preſently made and ſet up in this ſtreſs of Affairs, we muſt unavoidably have ſunk and periſh'd.

Theſe Bills paſt in Payments as ſo many Counters, which the People were ſatisfy'd to receive, becauſe they knew the Exchequer would receive them again as ſo much ready Mony. Theſe State-Counters ſo well ſupply'd the place of Mony till new Coin was iſſued from the Mint, that Trade was preſerv'd, and mutual Payments well enough made to anſwer the Neceſſitys of the Government, and the People; and by this means the Parliament had the Honour to Accompliſh another Work that was judg'd impoſſible.

The Parliament likewiſe this Seſſion, to the great ſatisfaction of the People, took care to Remedy a Publick Grievance of long ſtanding. Several Places in and about the City of *London*, which in Times of the *Romiſh* Superſtition were allow'd as Sanctuarys to Criminals and Debtors, had ever ſince the Reformation pretended a Privilege to protect the laſt; and one of theſe was a notorious Neſt of broken and deſperate Men, in the very heart of his Majeſty's Capital City, whither they reſorted in great Numbers, and to the diſhonour of the Government and grievance of the People; defended themſelves with Force and Violence againſt the Law and publick Authority. The Parliament took care to redreſs this inveterate Miſchief; and what was long expected from others, was effected by this, in an Act intituled, *For the more Effectual Relief of Creditors in Caſes of Eſcapes, and for preventing Abuſes*

Abuses in Prisons, and pretended privileged Places. Wherein such effectual Provision was made to reduce these Garisons of Out-Laws, that immediately after the Act was publish'd, they abandon'd their Posts, and deserted in such Numbers, that their old Haunts became a Desolation, and lay open to receive better Inhabitants.

The Summer after this Session of Parliament, His Majesty being at the Head of his Army in *Flanders*, his Enemys even after they had open'd the Campaign with the taking of *Aeth*, thought fit to enter upon a Negotiation of Peace, which was begun and carry'd on at *Ryswick* by the Plenipotentiarys of all the Princes and States concern'd, and thro' the good Disposition of the principal Partys to so great a Work, the Treaty was concluded, and a Peace ratify'd the *Autumn* following; to the accomplishing of which, his Majesty's Presence in *Flanders* mightily contributed. The management of this famous Negotiation, and the favourable Terms on which it was concluded, were no less to the Peoples Satisfaction, than to His Majesty's Glory. For the Malecontents never believ'd that it was possible for the King to make Peace upon any, much less upon Terms so very Honourable; and therefore they look'd on this Transaction at *Ryswick*, as a pure Amusement either to break the Confederacy, or to cover some notable Design which was not yet ripe for Execution. And when at last they saw the Treaty far advanc'd, they began indeed to believe that a Peace might be concluded with the rest of the Allys, but they were certain *England* would

would never be included: For they judg'd this ſo incredible a Story, that they ſcarcely believ'd it when the Peace was publickly and ſolemnly Proclaim'd.

This important Work being thus happily effected, His Majeſty return'd to *England*; where the People every where receiv'd him, as they had the greateſt Reaſon in the World to do, with all the Applauſe and Demonſtration of Joy that can be imagin'd. He met his Parliament the third day of *December*.

The War being ended, the Houſe of Commons for the Eaſe of the People, Voted the Army to be Disbanded, and reſolv'd to raiſe a Supply ſufficient to pay off the Troops. But at the ſame time when they took off ſo great a part of the Burden from the Country, out of a due regard to our future Safety, they paſs'd a Vote to enable His Majeſty to keep ſuch a number of Troops on Foot, and to maintain ſuch Naval Force, as in their Opinion the Security of the Government and the publick Tranquility requir'd.

When the Houſe had Voted a Supply for the Diſbanding the greateſt part of the Army, they took into Conſideration the Services of the Officers and Common Men, who had amidſt ſo many Hardſhips, Dangers and Diſappointments in Nine ſucceſſive Campaigns, ſhewn ſo much Bravery and Fidelity in the Defence of their Country, as recover'd the declining Reputation of the *Engliſh* Valour, and preſerv'd the Kingdom from the terrible Aſſaults of the moſt Potent Empire that perhaps was ever Erected in the World.

It was thought hard that ſuch gallant Men, to whom the Kingdom ow'd ſo much, ſhould be diſcharg'd without any Proviſion made for them, the Houſe of Commons therefore paſs'd a Vote in their Favour, *That the Officers ſhould be continued in half Pay till they ſhould otherwiſe be provided for*; and *that the Common Centinels ſhould have a Donative at their Disbanding*; and for their further encouragement, *ſhould be free to ſet up and exerciſe their Trades in any Town or Corporation throughout the Country.*

This being done, the Parliament took into Conſideration two great Branches of our Foreign Trade, which had long wanted a due Regulation; and they enter'd firſt upon that of the Company Trading to *Africa*; and in conſideration of the neceſſity of keeping up Forts and Caſtles for the Defence of our Factorys on the Coaſt of *Guinea*, there being no Regular Government among thoſe Barbarous People on whoſe Protection they might ſafely rely, the Parliament thou ght it neceſſary to Eſtabliſh the *African* Company for the better carrying on our Commerce to thoſe Parts. Yet the Free Traders or Interlopers, were likewiſe permitted to Trade to the ſame Coaſts, provided they paid to the Eſtabliſh'd Company Ten *per Cent.* of the Value of Goods exported, towards the maintenance of the Forts and Settlements.

Next they enter'd on the Buſineſs of the *East India* Trade, which had been depending many years, and was look'd on as ſo nice and difficult that it had been

referr'd to the King and his Council, and back again by them to the Parliament.

This Affair being brought into the Houſe of Commons, and the Old Company having offer'd to advance ſeven hundred thouſand pounds at four *per Cent.* for the Service of the Government in caſe the Trade to *India* might be ſetled on them Excluſive of all others, the Houſe ſeem'd inclin'd to embrace their Propoſal, when a Number of eminent Merchants propos'd to the Houſe to raiſe Two Millions at eight *per Cent.* on Condition the Trade to *India* might be ſetled on the Subſcribers excluſive of all others. They propos'd that theſe Subſcribers ſhould not be oblig'd to Trade in a Joynt Stock, but if any Members of them ſhould afterwards deſire to be incorporated, a Charter ſhould be granted to them for that purpoſe.

The Houſe judg'd this Overture not only to be more advantageous to the Government, but likewiſe more likely to ſettle this controverted Trade on a better Foundation than it was on before; a Bill therefore was brought into the Houſe, for ſetling the Trade to the *Eaſt Indies* on thoſe who ſhould ſubſcribe the Two Millions, according to the Limitations beforementi-on'd. But ſo great a regard was had to the Members of the Old Company, that till they had refus'd and rejected the Offer made them of ſetling this Trade upon them, if they would accept it on the ſame Terms and Limitations on which the others were contented to take it, and which the Parliament judg'd moſt advan-

rageous for the Kingdom, the Bill did paſs in favour of the New Adventurers.

The Bill being paſs'd, and the Books laid open to take Subſcriptions, the whole Two Millions were ſubſcrib'd in leſs time than four Days, the People ſhew'd ſo much Zeal to aſſiſt the Government, and promote the Trade of the Nation, that 'tis very probable a Million more had been ſubſcrib'd, had not the Books been ſhut up before the diſtant Corporations, and private Men in remote Countys, could remit their Commiſſions for the great Sums they intended to Subſcribe. The diſpatch of ſo great a Work in ſo ſhort a Time, after the Nation had born ſo chargeable a War for ſo many years, ſurpriz'd and amaz'd all the World. And as it greatly mortify'd all thoſe who were joyfully aſſur'd that His Majeſty would be diſappointed of this Supply, ſo it gave our Neighbouring Nations an aſtoniſhing Image both of the Opulence of the People, and the Strength of the Government. This Tranſaction view'd in all its Circumſtances, is indeed ſo very ſtrange and wonderful, that 'twill be a hard matter for Poſterity to believe it. How will they be able to perſwade themſelves, that a Nation whoſe Wealth might with great Reaſon be ſuppos'd to be exhauſted after they had contended ſo many years with ſuch a mighty Enemy, ſhould be capable of furniſhing ſuch a vaſt Supply in Four Days? Yet this Wiſe Parliament had ſo much Skill in touching the Springs of the Peoples Affection, that notwithſtanding all the

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Losses they had suffer'd, and all the Expence they had been at, they were prevail'd with to advance this great Supply with such incredible Expedition. And by this means, the Parliament, only by doubling the Duty on Proceedings at Law and that on Salt, rais'd a Supply of two Millions; which to have done by any other Ways, was at that time a matter of the highest Difficulty.

The Parliament likewise this Session, apply'd themselves with great Diligence to discover such Offenders, who by fraudulent and surreptitious Ways had carry'd on a secret Commerce with *France*; and to the great Damage of this Kingdom, had brought in for divers Years past, great quantitys of Alamodes and Lutestrings. Many of these Criminals they detected and punish'd: And to prevent the continuance of this clandestine and most prejudicial Trade, and to encourage our own Manufacture, they brought in a Bill which after past into an Act, Intitled, *An Act for the better encouragement of the Royal Lustring Company, and the more effectual preventing the fraudulent Importation of Lustrings and Alamodes.*

And for as much as many ill Men continued to export English Wool *&c.* to foreign Parts, to the unspeakable detriment of the Nation, notwithstanding the severe Laws that were in Force against such Offenders, the Parliament the more effectually to obviate that stubborn Mischief for the future, made many prudent Provisions, in an Act Intituled, *An Act for the*

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Explanation and better Execution of former Acts made against Tranſportation of Wool, Fullers-Earth, and Scouring-Clay.

This Seſſion likewiſe upon complaints made, that the Woollen Manufacture was carry'd on in *Ireland*, to the great Prejudice of that Staple Trade in *England*, the Parliament took care to ſtop the Progreſs of that growing Evil. They enter'd upon a Bill for that purpoſe, but it terminated at laſt in an Addreſs to the King, *That his Majeſty would be pleas'd to uſe the moſt effectual means to diſcourage his Subjects of* Ireland *from proſecuting the Woolen, and encourage them to apply themſelves to the Linnen Manufacture in that Kingdom, whereby they might carry on a gainful Trade to themſelves, without interfering with an Intereſt of which his Subjects in* England *were ſo very tender.*

Theſe were the principal Tranſactions of theſe worthy Patriots in their three Seſſions; and thoſe who ſeriouſly reflect on the mighty Difficultys which with unexampled Reſolution they encounter'd, and at laſt Maſter'd, on the Wiſe and Effectual Remedys which they apply'd to the ſharpeſt and moſt obſtinate Diſtempers under which any Nation ever languiſh'd, on their Conſtancy and unwearied Diligence, either in obviating new Dangers, or removing freſh Miſchiefs that embroil'd their Affairs, with what Vigour they ply'd the Helm, and how ſteddily they Steer'd on very treacherous and boiſtrous Waters, how oft they Row'd againſt Wind and Tide, and

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tho' often carry'd back by the Violence of the Current, or diverted by rapid Turns or Eddys of State, yet ſtill return'd with invincible Courage, ſtem'd the Tide and forc'd their Way, till at laſt in ſpite of all Oppoſition they gain'd their intended Port, thoſe I ſay, who impartially and ſeriouſly make theſe Reflections, can't but entertain a great Veneration of their Ability and Zeal for the Publick Good. If there be any Man that does not yet admire as he ought to do, the greatneſs of this Parliament, let him but conſider what an amazing Undertaking it was to recoin all the Silver Mony of the Nation when it was ready to ſink under the weight of a long expenſive War; which attempt was ſo hazardous, that the Enemy was made to believe it would certainly be fatal to us, and under that Confidence was perſwaded to continue the War; as they made Peace when that Preſumption was diſappointed. Let him conſider what a Task it was to recover the loſt Credit of the Nation both Publick and Private, in thoſe low Circumſtances, to which we were then reduc'd. Let him conſider how great a Work it was to raiſe, or rather to make Mony for the Publick Service which requir'd extraordinary Supplys, when there was very little Mony in Being; Let him conſider this well, and he will take righter Meaſures of the Wiſdom of this great Aſſembly. Theſe were the Work's of refin'd Underſtanding, of the moſt extenſive Capacity and inflexible Perſeverance; And theſe were the Works of this Parliament. A Parliament that had

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the Honour to be Hated and Revil'd as much as any ever was, by the Enemys of our Government; which is a convincing Proof that they took the best Measures in the World for the Preservation of it. For had they betray'd it, these Gentlemen would have thanked them for it; had they out of Supineness or Ignorance run it a ground, our Enemys perhaps might have derided their Weakness and Unskilfulness, but they could never have express'd so much Choler and Resentment. The Slanders therefore and Invectives of these Men who heartily wish'd the Ruin of our Establishment, is an honourable and lasting Encomium on the Proceedings of this Assembly. And as the Adherents of the late King openly declair'd their Anger and Enmity against the last Parliament, so 'tis not to be doubted but that all the Friends of the Government, that is every true Englishman, has, on the other Hand, as great Affection and Reverence for their Memory.

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